

World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Ashley's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Sabrina will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Sabrina on this monumental achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I regrettably missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 173—"yea."

MARCH 8TH, 2010 BOSTON GLOBE
EDITORIAL: "FDA LAX ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit an editorial published in the Boston Globe on March 8, 2010, entitled "FDA Lax on Conflicts of Interest." This editorial highlights the potential conflicts of interest inherent in the FDA's recent selection of Committee Members for their newly established Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee, TPSAC. I understand the committee is responsible for advising the FDA on a broad range of topics, including nicotine levels in cigarettes and the development of reduced risk products.

I opposed H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act when it passed through the Democrat-led Congress in the summer of 2009 before being signed into law. The bill, which provided the FDA with the authority to regulate tobacco products, defies logic and I have been monitoring the development of these new regulations carefully. Earlier this month the FDA finally announced the members they selected to serve on TPSAC. Alarming, as the Boston Globe editorial explains, two of the scientists selected as committee members have direct financial ties to the companies who could benefit from the recommendations they will be tasked with making. Having committee members who stand to gain financially from their own recommendations is unacceptable and represents disturbing conflicts of interest. This action and the resulting conflicts of interest are extremely threatening to the tobacco industry—an industry that provides hundreds of thousands of jobs in North Carolina and throughout our nation.

This Administration likes to talk about high ethical standards and transparency but we have yet to see those lofty promises put into action. The Administration can take its first step towards this goal by eliminating these conflicts of interest and ensuring the FDA takes the utmost precaution against selecting such members in the future.

FDA LAX ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

[From the Boston Globe, Mar. 8, 2010]

The Food and Drug Administration has done far too little to avoid conflicts of interest among those who serve on its scientific panels and advisory boards. The latest example came last Monday, when the agency appointed to a tobacco advisory committee two scientists who have financial ties to companies that sell smoking cessation products.

One of the scientists, Jack Henningfield, makes most of his income from a consulting company that has GlaxoSmithKline, which makes Nicorette gum, as a client, according to a Wall Street Journal report. The other, Neil L. Benowitz, formerly worked as a consultant for GlaxoSmithKline and still consults for Pfizer, which makes the quit-smoking drug Chantix.

It could be worse. The pair of scientists could have financial ties to cigarette makers—which would violate federal law since the two will vote on recommendations for how to regulate the tobacco industry. But no matter how honorable the individuals involved, there's a clear danger when those who decide whether menthol cigarettes should be banned and whether smokeless tobacco products are safe also stand to profit from the sale of products that help people quit smoking.

It's encouraging that the FDA asked the scientists to disclose their financial ties to the drug companies. The reason for their appointment is the same scientific expertise they also offer to the pharmaceutical industry. But the agency must justify why the nine voting members of the committee could not be selected from the many scientists who do not have such ties.

If the two scientists are indeed the best that can serve the committee, they should not be allowed to vote on whether particular tobacco products can come to market unless they agree not to receive profits related to smoking-cessation aids. In addition, the FDA, which promised to screen all panel members for conflicts of interest before each meeting, should make the criteria and results of those screenings public while the panel meets and before any of its recommendations become national policy.

HONORING SHERIDAN MOTTET

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheridan Mottet, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Sheridan was recently invited to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Sheridan's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Sheridan will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Sheridan on this monumental achievement.

HONORING MR. OTTO IGNACIO COELHO, SR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, Congressman COSTA and I rise today to honor the life of our dear friend, Mr. Otto Ignacio Coelho, Sr., a long time resident of Hilmar, California. Mr. Coelho passed away at the age of 92. Mr. Coelho was a strong leader of the community and served on numerous Portuguese organizations. Although a native of Tulare, California, he made Hilmar his home. He was one of six children born to Pauline and Pedro Coelho who immigrated to the United States from Terceira, the Azores in Portugal.

Otto was raised on the family dairy until his family moved to Monterey. His father was a fisherman and Otto worked for a time selling the fish his father and brother caught. Otto eventually returned to the Central Valley and the dairy industry. On September 3, 1938, Otto married the love of his life, Alice Branco, whom he had known since childhood. Otto was involved in the dairy industry until the 1960s, after which time he did custom farming and later was active in farm equipment sales for N&S Tractor Company.

After retirement, Otto became even more involved in the Pentecost celebrations he had loved since a child. He was a member of the Dos Palos DES Stevinson Pentecost Association, Nossa Senhora do Rosario of Hilmar, and Our Lady of Fatima Los Banos. He greatly enjoyed making the rounds to collect for Festa celebrations throughout the valley, and proudly kept his route books. He was a member of the SES. Otto was also deeply devoted to his Catholic faith, and was a long-time member and officer of the YMI at Holy Rosary St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hilmar, where he lived since 1965. He also belonged to the Knights of Columbus and was active in Casa da Azores in Hilmar.

Otto and Alice raised four children, Otto Jr. (Claudette) of Madera, Gilbert (Carol) of Firebaugh, Tony (Phyllis) of Delaware, and Susan Mattos of Newman. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. He is also survived by his sisters, Mercedes Martins of Watsonville, Nira Jean Perry (Joe) of Hollister, and Lee Coelho (Nancy) of Lemoore.

Otto Coelho was a pillar of our community. His strong sense of faith, family, and community speak volumes for generations to come. It is our honor to recognize Otto Coelho and to honor his legacy at this time. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family on their loss.

HONORING MARISA GARITZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Marisa Garitz, a very special young